REDEFINING FRIENDSHIP

Samali Jonah

WHO IS A FRIEND?

Friends are gift from God. Their purpose must be understood and they must be valued. That is why you should make friends and sustains your friendship. Friendship is for mutual support. that's why when support is exempted from friendship it eventually dies.

Did you know that friendship becomes stronger when it involves responsibility and sacrificial support? That's why you should not run from your friends when they seek your financial support. Don't ignore them when they are in need. Support them with the little you have; it will mean a lot to them. They will value you uniquely among their friends, and they will never forget your kindness. Whenever you are in need, they will also stand by you. The law of sowing and reaping also applies to friendship. It's what you sow in the life of your friends that you will surely reap from your friendship.

Friendship is beyond posting about each other on social media during special events in their lives, liking, commenting, and sharing their posts, or spending a long time talking physically or on social media. It's a responsibility that each party must bear

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concerning each other.

You must love your friends as you love yourself. Love to see them succeed in life, if you don't want to be surrounded by poor friends for life. make sure you support them in achieving success the best you can. It can be with money, introducing them to opportunities you've come across, or recommending them to places where they will be helped.

Some of us have friends who are only celebrating our success because they have to, because they know they cannot benefit anything from it. There's nothing bad, and I don't think it's a big deal for you to just send money to your friends, buy them a gift, or give them something of value without them asking you. It's very bad if your friends cannot boldly call you for assistance when they are in need simply because they know you cannot.

Right now, there are some of your friends who have already rated your friendship as just "mouth friendship" because there is no responsibility, and it lacks the true element of friendship. I've seen and heard about those who gave out cars, employment,

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houses, visas, planes, and even big gifts to their friends. But it all begins somewhere with a little. If you cannot even share your food, give out your items, little amount, text, call, buy them a recharge card, or data, you cannot do the bigger ones even if you become a millionaire tomorrow.

You got a job or are earning much now, but how many of your friends have benefitted from your promotion? You only spend on yourself and your girlfriend? What about your childhood friends? This thing is not about what you have but who you are. As I'm writing this to you, I am a living testimony of what friendship can do for a person. The best monetary gifts or items that I received in my life are from my friends, not my family. Even the Bible says, "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity" (Proverbs 17:17). When I was in a serious crisis in life, my friends did miracles for me. Most of them were willing to sacrifice even their last cash because of the little acts of love I had shown them some times. What I didn't even think was something serious, but they valued it much, and they cannot forget. I did those things when they

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were nothing in life, and that's why they cannot ignore me now.

Don't ignore or devalue your friends who are nothing today. Help them now, and they will never forget you tomorrow, no matter who they become in life. God can use your friends to help your life, but are you standing by them when they really need you, or have you been ignoring them? That's why it's not about how many friends you have but how many you have helped and supported, even if they are few. May this change your relationship with your friends. May you love them and stand by each other.

MAKING AND SUSTAINING FRIENDSHIP

Just as there is nothing that grows naturally without getting the things that are required for it to grow, so also friendship. It must be initiated, built, and sustained. You can see a person that you like his personality and make him your friend. That will require an effort from you who want to be his friend, to reach out to him and win him over. that's because you know you are the one that need him the most. It will require a lot of sacrifices, but as long as you value the friendship and you know it's worthy, you should go ahead and do that.

If you have a friend with whom your friendship is becoming weaker every day but you like the friendship, you have a role to play in strengthening that friendship.

Jonathan and David's friendship is an example of what I'm talking about here. Jonathan was the one who liked David and made him his friend.

If you like someone out there and you want to be his friend, you don't need to wait for that person to reach out to you so you can be friends. That doesn't often happen. You're the one to go first. Just like in

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the instance of a guy who sees a lady he likes; he is the one who reaches out to her and does all his best to win her for himself.

One common challenge faced mostly when winning a friend is that sometimes the other person may not like who is trying to be their friend. In that case, you shouldn't give up quickly. Consistency can give you the result you desire, but it's not just consistency. There are other things you must do, such as giving a gift or standing by them in tough times. When they see that you genuinely love them, they will also love you back. So, keep on; don't give up. Build that friendship now. You will be happy in the future that you did that.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Samali Jonah is a passionate Minister of the Gospel, Writer, and Personal development coach committed to raising a generation of purpose driven young people. He currently serves with Salvation Gospel Ministry International in Abuja, Nigeria where he teaches, inspires, and mentors youth to live boldly for God and fulfill their God given destinies.

A graduate of Christian Faith Institute, Jos where he obtained both his Degree and Master's, in Pastoral Theology. He is deeply rooted in sound doctrine and spiritual leadership. His heart burns for revival in Churches and also among the youth to see them loving God, embracing their calling, and walking intentionally toward the future they dream of.

With a unique blend of teaching, motivation, and inspiration, he has become a voice of transformation to many. Whether through speaking engagements, writing, or one on one mentorship, Samali empowers others to rise above limitations, discover their identity in Christ, and pursue their purpose with passion.

Above all, he is a lover of God who longs to see this generation not only dream, but become.

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